

reinforcing web member having a main body extending along the length of the strip and adapted to be secured to the tread portion of a stair.

U.S. Patent No. 5,357,724 to Sonoda describes a stair tread in which synthetic rubber is used to encase metal side core portions arranged at the side edges of a substantially horizontal core section at a downward right angle thereto.

U.S. Patent No. 5,898,814 to Yamamoto describes a stair covering which presents a stairs antiskid member capable of reducing the thickness of the entire antiskip member, enhancing the visual recognition of stairs by light.

U.S. Patent No. 6,088,976 to Roy describes a removable non-skid pad which covers a portion of a corresponding step of an exterior stair so as to allow people use it more safely. Snow or ice accumulations may be dislodged by removing the pad and skating it.

## SUMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a simple and convenient way to reduce the hazard of ice accumulating on exterior stairs, thereby reducing the possibility of bodily injury caused by slipping and falling on icy stairs.

The present invention reduces the danger of falling by providing a slip resistant flexible mat which when secured to the exterior step or walkway will, by virtue of their body weight will compress the icebreaker and break and shatter the ice which has formed on the mat. Removal of the ice is simply done by pushing it from the mat with their foot, or brushing it from the mat, since it has a non-adhering quality to the exterior cover, which when the ice is broken will easily be removed from the mat.

This will then provide a clean slip-resistant surface to ascend and descend from

their exterior stairs and porches.

Other objects, features and advantages will be apparent from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the mat of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a front view of the mat.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The cover material of this invention is made of PVC imitation leather and is made of knit cloth, adhesive-bonded and chemical fabric as basic materials and coated with PVC material after pressing and foaming. It is anti low temperature and aging, and has a long duration. PVC imitation leather has reached the national standard of GB/T8948-94. It is made for exterior use, is waterproof, and is textured to provide a non-slip surface. The core is 1/4 " styrofoam or its equivalent and measures 8" X 34", and is coated with an adhesive prior to being assembled with the cover material. This creates a stable stair mat with no moving parts. Once the cover and core are assembled, the right , back, and left side are sealed for a permanent seal, which makes the mat air and water tight. As long as the seal is not broken, it will retain it's flexibility and perform as intended.

The mat is then placed on a wooden step in late fall before the threat of ice and snow. It is secured by staples, two sided tape, velcro, or any other means the buyer wishes to attach them with, if the application is on brick or concrete stairs than thaey can be attached by four dabs of silicone sealer or a like material which will secure the

mat for the duration of the enter. The mat is placed approx. 1/2" in from the front edge of the step with the rounded edge to the front, then placing two staples on both ends and the back on the sealed part of the mat. Once ice had formed, it only requires the weight of your body as you step on the mat to break the ice, and with little effort with your foot, the ice will fall from the mat, since the cover fabric also has a non-adhering quality, therefore the ice will not stick to the surface.

Thus the present invention provides an icebreaker mat which is a product made of slip-resistant, non-adhering, water-proof cover material, which contains a flexible core substance of styrofoam, foam, or other material suitable to provide the same results. It is sealed so as to provide a water-proof air tight flexible stair mat, pad or stair tread attachment. Once assembled and sealed into one unit, the icebreaker mat provides a safe and convenient method of eliminating ice from exterior stairs and open walking areas of a porch or landing.

Although the icebreaker mat may have an overall size of 9"X 36"X1/4", which provides walking space for two persons, side by side, it is not limited to that size, for it could be produced shorter, or longer if the need should arise. Therefore the icebreaker mat is not limited to the size in which it is being presented.

There is a cover material 1, having heat sealed edges 2, surrounding an interior core 4. There is a section 3 with the interior flexible core inside. The front edge is rounded 5.

The cover material 1 in this embodiment, prior to assembly, may be approximately 18"X36", but is not limited to this size. Approximately 1" of the right, back and left side comprise a heat sealed portion 2 of the mat. There is a section of the mat which contains the flexible interior core 3. The interior core is approximately 8"X34"X 1/4 ", but is not limited to this size. There is a rounded front